THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) As per available information there were 86 iron-ore mines in operation in Orissa during the year 2006-07. The estimated resources of iron-ore in Orissa are about 4761 million tonnes as on 1.4.2005.

(b) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, the total production of iron-ore in Orissa during the year 2006-07 (provisional) was 63095 thousand tonnes which was utilised both for domestic and export purposes. Details of utilisation of iron-ore produced in the State are not centrally maintained.

(c) to (e) As per available information, the total resources of iron-ore in Khandadhar area are placed at 250.85 million as on 1.4.2005 of which 174.05 million tonnes are under free hold category and 76.8 million tonnes are under leasehold. So far 2 mining leases have been granted in favour of M/s OMC Ltd. in Khandadhar area.

Minority communities in the country

†1778. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of minority communities in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether percentage of growth of population of minority communities is at par with the growth in total population in the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minority communities under section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992. Details of religious minorities including percentage growth of population are available in the "Census of India 2001—The First Report on Religion Data" published by Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India and also on the website *www.censusindia.gov.in*. The growth rate during 1991—2001 is variable.

Minority community Below Poverty Line

1779. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the number of Muslims, minority community is rapidly increasing towards Below Poverty Line in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such increase during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to bring this minority community above the poverty line and also upto the middle class persons; and

(d) the financial assistance provided/expected to be provided to the poor minority community, for their development and improvement and by when?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at National and State level from the large

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.